

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

Reserve
aGV199
.42
.W42M63
1992

DOLLY SODS & ROARING PLAINS

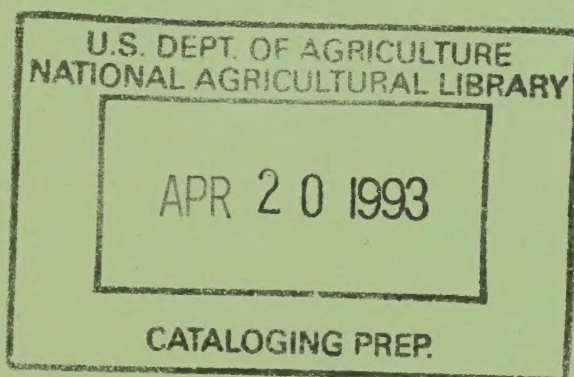
HIKING GUIDE

DOLLY SODS
SCENIC AREA

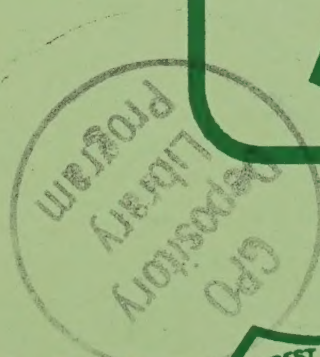
DOLLY SODS
WILDERNESS

MONONGAHELA
NATIONAL
FOREST

UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF
AGRICULTURE



12 JAN 1993



AMERICA'S
GREAT
OUTDOORS





Bear Rocks - Scenic Overlook

The **Dolly Sods Area** of the Monongahela National Forest is one of the most popular areas on the forest. Those seeking solitude should plan to explore areas off the trails or travel to other parts of the Forest. There are two units within the Dolly Sods Area and each provides a different hiking experience. Topographical maps are recommended for hiking in both areas.



DOLLY SODS WILDERNESS

Wilderness is "an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain." Wilderness areas have been set aside to preserve the primitive character of the land, invoking a spirit of self-reliance in those faced with the challenges nature provides. Remember that humans are not the only ones who benefit from having Wilderness.



For these reasons, trails within the Wilderness are blazed infrequently and signs are only found at trail junctions. **There are no bridges crossing Red Creek or its tributaries.** Hikers must ford the creeks. At high water times, hikers will have to alter their travel plans.

Motorized vehicles, bicycles, and other wheeled vehicles **ARE NOT ALLOWED** in the Wilderness.

The Dolly Sods Wilderness is comprised of northern hardwood forests and laurel thickets at the lower elevations, while red spruce and heath barrens are found at the higher elevations. Bogs, beaver ponds, and rocky barrens are found throughout the area. The headwaters of Red Creek are found in this area.

Red Creek Trail is the longest and most heavily used trail in the Wilderness. This trail connects the north and south boundaries and is rocky and wet with a few short, steep sections. Hikers must ford Red Creek twice.

Little Stonecoal Trail connects Red Creek with Dunkenbarger Trail and the high plateau. This old railroad grade climbs steadily out of the Red Creek canyon. The tread is wet and rocky in places.

Dunkenbarger Trail connects little Stonecoal and Big Stonecoal Trails. This fairly level trail crosses Dunkenbarger Run several times and the tread is wet and rocky.

Big Stonecoal Trail connects Red Creek with Breathed Mountain Trail. The junction with Rocky Point Trail is halfway. This is a steep climb and the tread is wet and rocky.

Rocky Point Trail connects Red Creek to the mid-point of Big Stonecoal Trail. This fairly level trail skirts around the edge of Breathed Mountain and is extremely rocky!

Breathed Mountain Trail rises abruptly from the west side of Red Creek and levels off on the plateau. It connects Red Creek with Big Stonecoal Trail. The tread is wet and rocky.



Fisher Spring Run Trail descends steeply from Forest Road 75 to Red Creek. This trail is washed out in places resulting in a rough tread.

Wildlife Trail is an old road that connects Forest Road 75 with Rohrbaugh Plains Trail. This trail has a gradual grade and is wet during the spring and fall.

Rohrbaugh Plains Trail connects Forest Road 19 to Fisher Spring Run Trail. The tread is very rocky, wet and can be a challenge to follow.

FLATROCK AND ROARING PLAINS BACKCOUNTRY

Fewer people visit this area compared to the Wilderness. Although one of the attributes of Wilderness is to provide solitude for the visitor, the popularity of Dolly Sods detracts from this experience.

The Flatrock and Roaring plains provide bogs, berries and windswept plains similar to those found in the Wilderness. The trails in this area are marked with blue blazes and signs are found at all trail junctions. Horses may be encountered on some of these trails.

South Prong Trail leaves Forest Road 19 and follows the South Fork of Red Creek. It climbs to the top of the Allegheny Front where it meanders through the Red Creek Plains on its way back to Forest Road 19. Overlooks to the east and west are found along this trail. The tread is rocky and wet. **(6 miles)**

Boar's Nest Trail climbs out of the South Fork of Red Creek drainage to the Flatrock Plains where views of Dolly Sods Wilderness can be seen. Hikers will encounter northern hardwood forests, laurel and rhododendron thickets, as well as bogs and blueberries. The tread is wet in places. **(2.5 miles)**

Roaring Plains Trail passes through tunnels of laurel thickets and patches of red spruce on its way to the plains. A seemingly constant wind roars over the heath barrens and bogs covering the plains. Nice floral displays occur in June and July. This trail is rocky and wet. **(3.5 miles)**

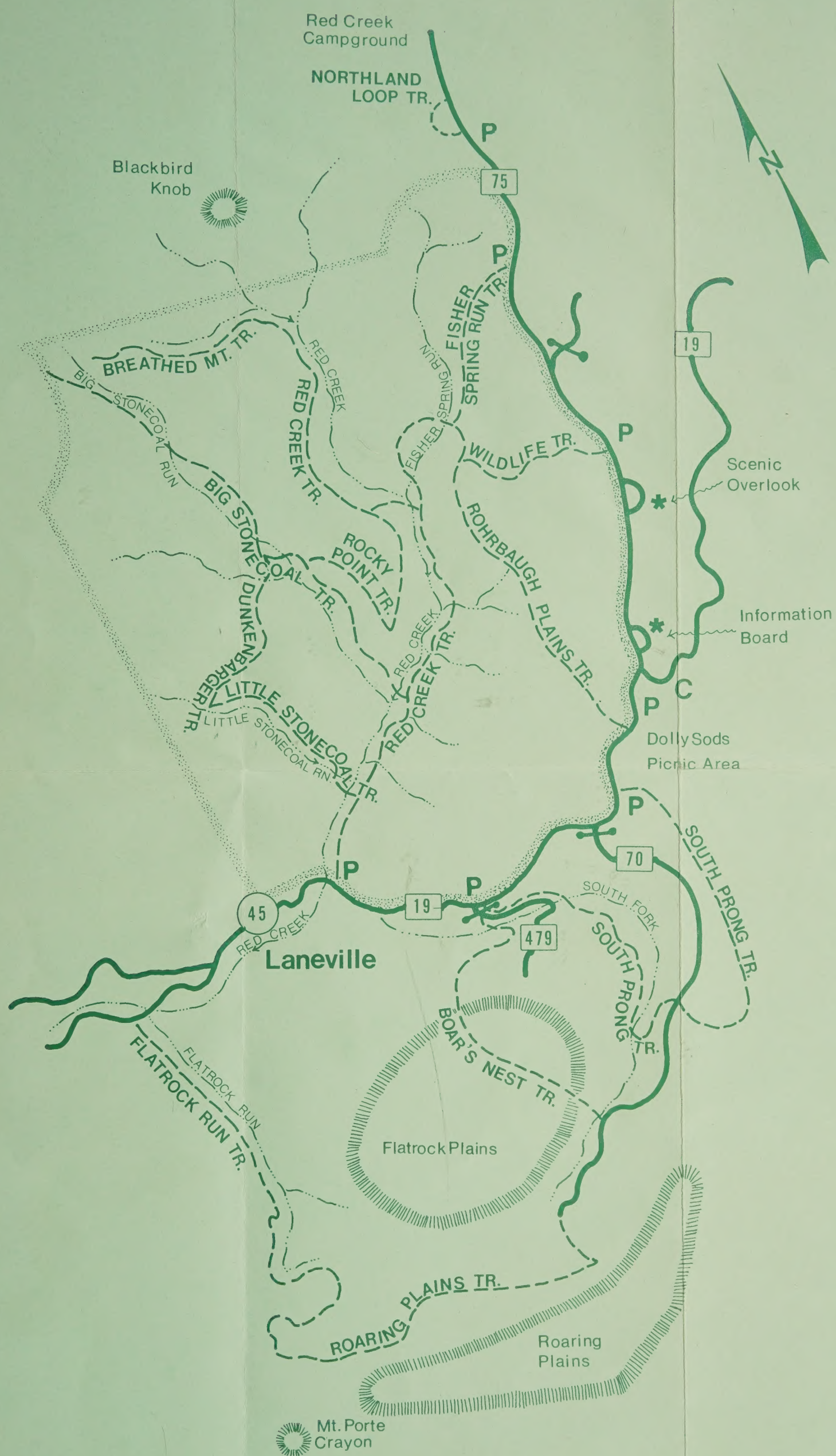


Flatrock Run Trail climbs 2,200 feet from the Red Creek Valley to the Roaring Plains and Mt. Porte Crayon. The trail follows Flat Rock Run through a hardwood forest before switching back several times to reach the windswept plains. This trail is steep and wet. **(5 miles)**

HIKING HINTS

- Trails can be muddy and wet so be prepared to get your feet wet.
- Dress for the weather. Be prepared for sudden changes.
- Wear proper footgear.
- Bring drinking water; otherwise, treat water from streams and springs before drinking to kill harmful pathogens.
- During hunting seasons, hikers are urged to wear high visibility clothing.

This brochure is available in large print at the Potomac Ranger Station and Seneca Rocks Visitor Center.



WEATHER CONSIDERATIONS

The Dolly Sods Area ranges in elevation from 2,500 to 4,700 feet above sea level. Freezing temperatures can occur anytime of the year. Snow can be expected anytime from October through April.

All hikers should know the symptoms and treatment of hypothermia!

Forest Roads are not maintained during the winter, so call the Ranger Station for weather and road conditions. Winter access points are Red Creek Trailhead at Laneville and Forest Road 80 in Canaan Valley. The Laneville Road (State Road 45) is plowed from State Route 32 to Laneville.

MAPS AND GUIDES

USGS Topographical Quads covering this area: Hopeville, Laneville, Blackbird Knob and Blackwater Falls.

Monongahela National Forest Hiking Guide by Bruce Sundquist and Allen deHart, West Virginia Highlands Conservancy.

Maps and guides are available for sale at the Potomac Ranger Station and the Seneca Rocks Visitor Center.

LEAVE NO TRACE!

- Make it hard for others to see and hear you.
- Select a campsite 200 feet from streams and trails.
- Bury all human waste at least 200 feet from water and trails.

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT!



*Maximum group size is
ten people within
the Wilderness.*

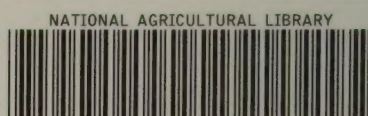
MULTIPLE USES

Visitors are likely to see areas where the Monongahela National Forest is managing the forest's resources in a variety of ways. Small tracts of timber are cut, not only to provide hardwood lumber, but also to create openings to benefit wildlife and create vistas. Cattle, sheep and horses grazing on tracts leased to local farmers provide meat and wool and keep those areas open, preserving the open scenic qualities and grasses for wildlife. In other areas, hay or corn is grown on leased areas to preserve the rural agricultural landscape. Rangers at the Seneca Rocks Visitor Center or Petersburg Ranger Station would be pleased to explain any of these or other activities you see.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

State Police (Elkins)	637-0200
Grant Cty Emergency Dispatch	257-1212

The nearest public phone is located at Smoke Hole Caverns on Route 28.



*Printed in cooperation with
the U.S. Forest Service and the
Mid-Appalachian Interpretive Association.*

If you need more information,
please contact:

Potomac Ranger District
U.S. Forest Service
Route 3, Box 240
Petersburg, WV 26847
Phone (304) 257-4488
(weekdays only)

Seneca Rocks Visitor Center
U.S. Forest Service
P.O. Box 13
Seneca Rocks, WV 26884
Phone (304) 567-2827
(daily, except winter)

The Forest Service is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, religion, color, sex or national origin.